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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/540,614	03/31/2000	David W. Grawrock	042390.P8084	2176
7590	02/23/2005		EXAMINER	
William W Schaal			ZIA, SYED	
Blakely Sokoloff Taylor & Zafman LLP			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
12400 Wilshire Boulevard 7th Floor				
Los Angeles, CA 90025			2131	

DATE MAILED: 02/23/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	09/540,614	GRAWROCK, DAVID W.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Syed Zia	Art Unit 2131	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

1)  Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 September 2004.

2a)  This action is **FINAL**.                            2b)  This action is non-final.

3)  Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## **Disposition of Claims**

4)  Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
5)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
6)  Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.  
7)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
8)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

9)  The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)  The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a)  accepted or b)  objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)  The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

12)  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a)  All    b)  Some \* c)  None of:  
1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

1)  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2)  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3)  Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_

4)  Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_ .  
5)  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
6)  Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Amendment***

This office action is in response to amendment filed on September 28, 2004. Original application contained Claims 1-23. Applicant amended Claim 14. The amendments filed on September 28, 2004 have been entered and made of record. Therefore, presently Claims 1-23 are pending for consideration.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed on September 28, 2004 have been fully considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person

having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishac et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,812,861), in view of Russell (U. S. Patent 4,841,492), and further in view of Brown (U. S. Patent 6,487,667).

3. Regarding Claim 1 Ishac teach a method (Fig.1-4) comprising:  
implementing an integrated circuit device within an electronic system, the integrated circuit device including an override disable pin (col.6 line 18 to col.7 line 14); and preventing modification of a representation of a primary pass-phrase when the override disable pin is asserted, the primary pass-phrase permitting access to stored information within the electronic system (col.7 line 40 to col.9 line 20).

Although the system disclosed by Ishac shows the all features of the claimed limitation, but Ishac does not specifically disclose output disable pin.

In an analogous art, Russell, on the other hand discloses integrated circuit environment of an output disable pin (OD pin) connected to phase selector of a transmit focus block (Fig. 6B, Item 22, col.10 line 10 to line 11 col.11 line 40 to line 41).

Therefore, It would have been obvious to one ordinary skilled in the art at the time of invention to combine the teachings of Ishac and Russell, because Russell's method of overriding (i.e. disabling) by specifically using a hardware pin installed in a integrated circuit would not only provide ability to disable the override by installing an integrated output disable pin in the system of Ishac during accessing information stored within electronic system but will also provide

safeguards against attempt by unauthorized person to breach security of system by disabling the pin.

The system of Ishac and Russell teaches external powerdown signal recognized by powerdown controller but does not expressly disclose pass-phrase. However, Brown teaches and discloses a pass-phrase authentication scheme that provides a way to authenticate users and services using a pass-phrase (col.21 line 38 to line 41, and col.7 line 45 to col.8 line 5).

Therefore, It would have been obvious to one ordinary skilled in the art at the time of invention to combine the teachings of Ishac and Brown, because Brown's method of providing the pass-phrase input information from one or more user input devices, such as keyboard, , a mouse, or a microphone would not only provide ability to input pass-phrase in different mode and will also different representation of stored pass-phrase during identification and authentication.

4. Regarding Claim 9 Ishac teach a method (Fig.1-4) comprising:  
enabling access to stored information within an electronic system upon assertion of an override disable pin of an integrated circuit device (col.6 line 18 to col.7 line 14); and  
disabling access to the stored information despite assertion of the override pin of the integrated circuit device when an override disable pin of the integrated circuit device is asserted prior to assertion of the override pin (col.7 line 40 to col.9 line 20).

Although the system disclosed by Ishac shows the all features of the claimed limitation, but Ishac does not specifically disclose output disable pin.

In an analogous art, Russell, on the other hand discloses integrated circuit environment of an output disable pin (OD pin) connected to phase selector of a transmit focus block (Fig. 6B, Item 22, col.10 line 10 to line 11 col.11 line 40 to line 41).

Therefore, It would have been obvious to one ordinary skilled in the art at the time of invention to combine the teachings of Ishac and Russell, because Russell's method of overriding (i.e. disabling) by specifically using a hardware pin installed in a integrated circuit would not only provide ability to disable the override by installing an integrated output disable pin in the system of Ishac during accessing information stored within electronic system but will also provide safeguards against attempt by unauthorized person to breach security of system by disabling the pin.

The system of Ishac and Russell teaches external powerdown signal recognized by powerdown controller but does not expressly disclose pass-phrase. However, Brown teaches and discloses a pass-phrase authentication scheme that provides a way to authenticate users and services using a pass-phrase (col.21 line 38 to line 41, and col.7 line 45 to col.8 line 5).

Therefore, It would have been obvious to one ordinary skilled in the art at the time of invention to combine the teachings of Ishac and Brown, because Brown's method of providing the pass-phrase input information from one or more user input devices, such as keyboard, , a mouse, or a microphone would not only provide ability to input pass-phrase in different mode and will also different representation of stored pass-phrase during identification and authentication.

5. Regarding Claim 14 Ishac teach a method (Fig.1-4) comprising:

enabling placement of an integrated circuit device of an electronic system into an administrator mode upon assertion of an override disable pin of the integrated circuit device, data stored within the integrated circuit device can be cleared only when the integrated circuit device is placed in the administrator mode; (col.6 line 18 to col.7 line 14, and col.9 line 49 to line 65); and

disabling placement the of an integrated circuit device of the electronic system into the administrator mode despite assertion of the override pin of the integrated circuit device when an override disable pin of the integrated circuit device is asserted prior to assertion of the override pin (col.7 line 40 to col.9 line 20).

Although the system disclosed by Ishac shows the all features of the claimed limitation, but Ishac does not specifically disclose output disable pin.

In an analogous art, Russell, on the other hand discloses integrated circuit environment of an output disable pin (OD pin) connected to phase selector of a transmit focus block (Fig. 6B, Item 22, col.10 line 10 to line 11col.11 line 40 to line 41).

Therefore, It would have been obvious to one ordinary skilled in the art at the time of invention to combine the teachings of Ishac and Russell, because Russell's method of overriding (i.e. disabling) by specifically using a hardware pin installed in a integrated circuit would not only provide ability to disable the override by installing an integrated output disable pin in the system of Ishac during accessing information stored within electronic system but will also provide safeguards against attempt by unauthorized person to breach security of system by disabling the pin.

The system of Ishac and Russell teaches external powerdown signal recognized by powerdown controller but does not expressly disclose pass-phrase.

However, Brown teaches and discloses a pass-phrase authentication scheme that provides a way to authenticate users and services using a pass-phrase (col.21 line 38 to line 41, and col.7 line 45 to col.8 line 5).

Therefore, It would have been obvious to one ordinary skilled in the art at the time of invention to combine the teachings of Ishac and Brown, because Brown's method of providing the pass-phrase input information from one or more user input devices, such as keyboard, , a mouse, or a microphone would not only provide ability to input pass-phrase in different mode and will also different representation of stored pass-phrase during identification and authentication.

6. Regarding Claim 18 Ishac teach an electronic system (Fig.1-4) comprising:
  - a bus, a processor coupled to the bus, a system memory coupled to the bus, and an integrated circuit device coupled to the bus, the integrated circuit device including a memory (col.3 line 34 to line 64);
    - an override pin to enable access to information stored within the memory upon assertion of the override pin (col.6 line 18 to col.7 line 14);
      - an override disable pin to disable access to the information stored within the memory despite the assertion of the override pin when the override disable pin is asserted prior to assertion of the override pin (col.7 line 40 to col.9 line 20).

Although the system disclosed by Ishac shows the all features of the claimed limitation, but Ishac does not specifically disclose output disable pin.

In an analogous art, Russell, on the other hand discloses integrated circuit environment of an output disable pin (OD pin) connected to phase selector of a transmit focus block (Fig. 6B, Item 22, col.10 line 10 to line 11 col.11 line 40 to line 41).

Therefore, It would have been obvious to one ordinary skilled in the art at the time of invention to combine the teachings of Ishac and Russell, because Russell's method of overriding (i.e. disabling) by specifically using a hardware pin installed in a integrated circuit would not only provide ability to disable the override by installing an integrated output disable pin in the system of Ishac during accessing information stored within electronic system but will also provide safeguards against attempt by unauthorized person to breach security of system by disabling the pin.

The system of Ishac and Russell teaches external powerdown signal recognized by powerdown controller but does not expressly disclose pass-phrase.

However, Brown teaches and discloses a pass-phrase authentication scheme that provides a way to authenticate users and services using a pass-phrase (col.21 line 38 to line 41, and col.7 line 45 to col.8 line 5).

Therefore, It would have been obvious to one ordinary skilled in the art at the time of invention to combine the teachings of Ishac and Brown, because Brown's method of providing the pass-phrase input information from one or more user input devices, such as keyboard, a mouse, or a microphone would not only provide ability to input pass-phrase in different mode and will also different representation of stored pass-phrase during identification and authentication.

7. Claims 2, 3, 5-8, 10, 11, 13, 15-17, 19-21, and 23 are rejected applied as above rejecting Claims 1, 9, 14, and 18. Furthermore, the system of Ishac, Russell, and Brown teach and describe a system and method for protecting confidential information stored within an electronic (Ishac: Fig.1-4), wherein

the integrated circuit device comprises a package to form a packaged integrated circuit device (Ishac: col.7 line 27 to line 54);

- preventing of the modification of the primary pass-phrase includes setting a control storage element within the integrated circuit device upon assertion of the override disable pin (Ishac: col.11 line 10 to line 15; Brown: col.21 line 38 to line 41, and col.7 line 45 to col.8 line 5, Russell: Fig. 6B, Item 22, col.10 line 10 to line 11col.11 line 40 to line 41); and

disabling modification of the primary pass-phrase when the control storage element is set (Ishac: col.10 line 44 to col.11 line 9, and Brown: col.21 line 38 to line 41, and col.7 line 45 to col.8 line 5);

the integrated circuit device further includes an override pin which, when asserted, allows a stored representation of the primary pass-phrase to be modified (Ishac: col.11 line 23 to line 40, Brown: col.21 line 38 to line 41, and col.7 line 45 to col.8 line 5, and Russell: Fig. 6B, Item 22, col.10 line 10 to line 11col.11 line 40 to line 41);

the setting of the control storage element includes setting a bit of at least one control register configured for permanent state retention over a plurality of power (Ishac: col.7 line 15 to line 25);

- the preventing of the modification of the primary pass-phrase includes signaling a control application software initiating a request for modification of the pass-phrase that a user is

denied access to the stored information of the integrated circuit device unless the primary pass-phrase is correctly entered (Ishac: col.7 line 63 to col.8 line 62, and Brown: col.21 line 38 to line 41, and col.7 line 45 to col.8 line 5);

a primary pass-phrase that includes a hash value of the primary pass-phrase (col.8 line 39 to line 62, and Brown: col.21 line 38 to line 41, and col.7 line 45 to col.8 line 5);

control storage element includes at least one control register configured for permanent state retention over a plurality of power cycles (Ishac: col.10 line 53 to line 67);

the integrated circuit further comprises a package to contain the memory from which the override pin and the override disable pin protrude (Ishac: Fig.1-4, and Russell: Fig. 6B, Item 22, col.10 line 10 to line 11col.11 line 40 to line 41);

the memory of the integrated circuit device is non-volatile memory (Ishac: col.7 line 15 to line 25);

the integrated circuit device further includes a control storage (Ishac: col.4 line 39 to line 49);

the integrated circuit device 2 further includes a microcode to determine whether the override disable pin has been asserted prior to assertion of the override pin (Ishac: col.4 line 50 to col.6 line 7, and Russell: Fig. 6B, Item 22, col.10 line 10 to line 11col.11 line 40 to line 41).

8. Claims 4, 12, and 22 are rejected applied as above rejecting Claims 3, 11, and 21.

Furthermore, the system of Ishac, Russell, and Brown teaches and describes a system and method for protecting confidential information stored within an electronic, wherein

- the control storage element is set after placing the electronic system in an administration mode upon correctly inputting the primary pass-phase into the electronic system (Ishac: col.6 line 18 to col.7 line 14, and col.9 line 49 to line 65, and Brown: col.21 line 38 to line 41, and col.7 line 45 to col.8 line 5);

- the control storage element of the integrated circuit device includes at least one control register configured for permanent state retention over a plurality of power cycles (Ishac: col.10 line 53 to line 67).

### ***Conclusion***

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Syed Zia whose telephone number is 571-272-3798. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 to 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh can be reached on 571-272-3795. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

sz  
February 11, 2005

*Andrew Caldwell*  
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